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(54) **GALVANIC ISOLATOR CIRCUIT**

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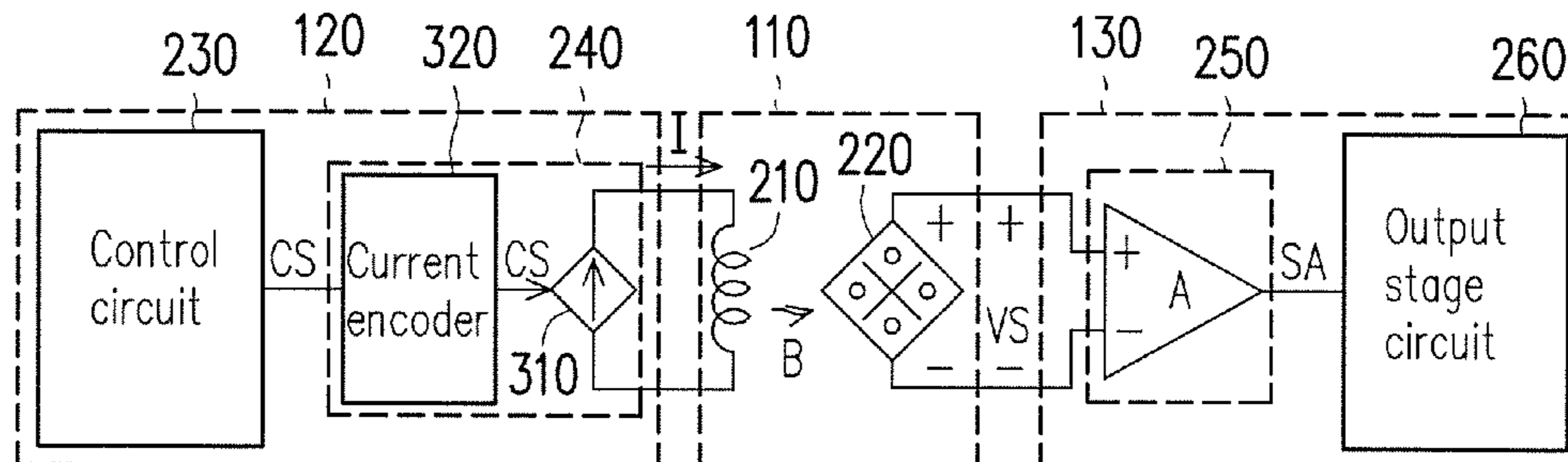
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An galvanic isolator circuit is provided. The electronic isolator circuit includes a coil and a magnetic field (MF) sensor. The coil is coupled to a first circuit. The MF sensor is coupled to a second circuit, and disposed corresponding to the coil. The first circuit transfers a MF signal to the MF sensor via the coil. The MF sensor transforms the MF signal into an output signal and provides the output signal to the second circuit. Accordingly, the galvanic isolator circuit is capable of realizing functions for galvanic isolating by utilizing the coil and the MF sensor.

16 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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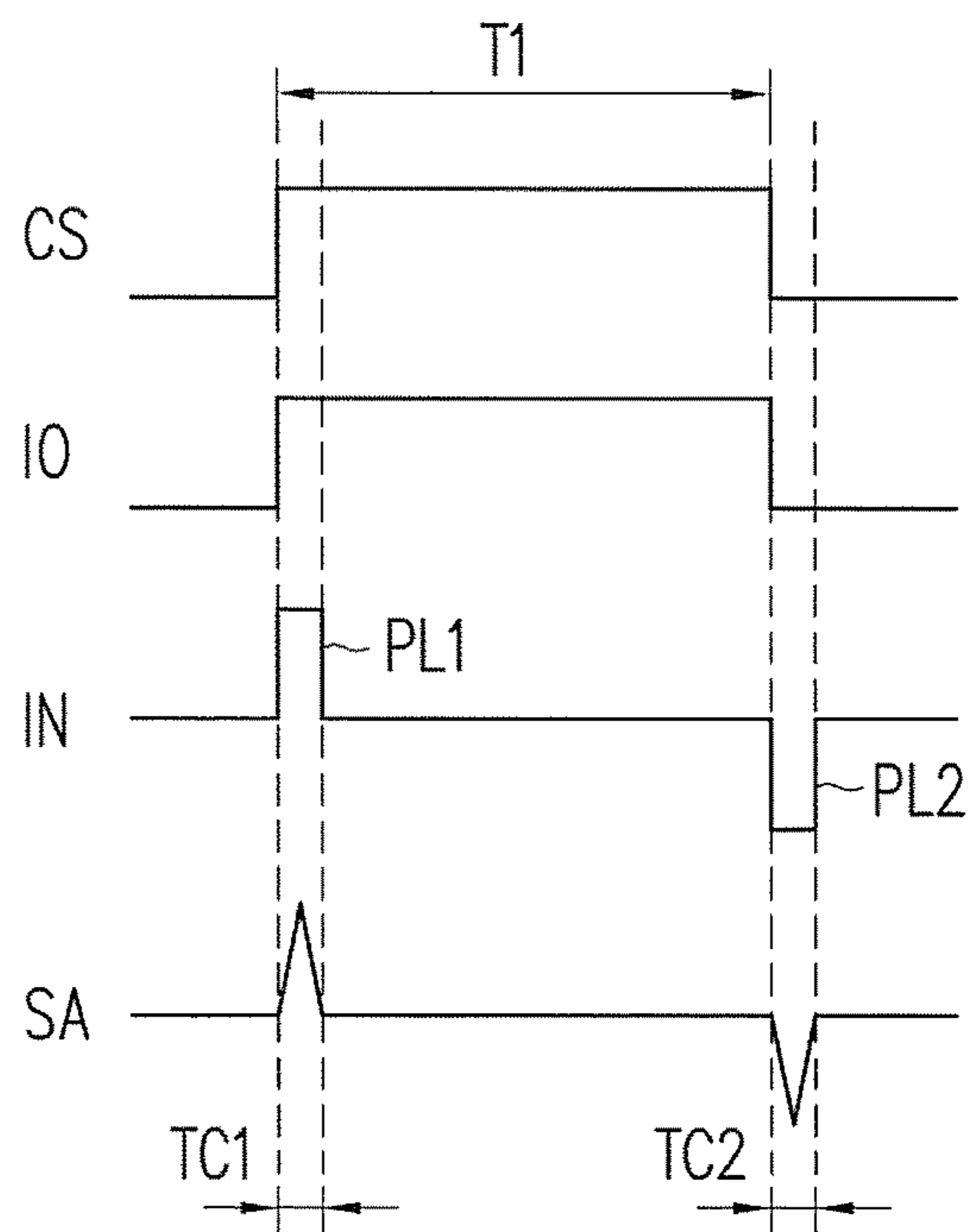


FIG. 4

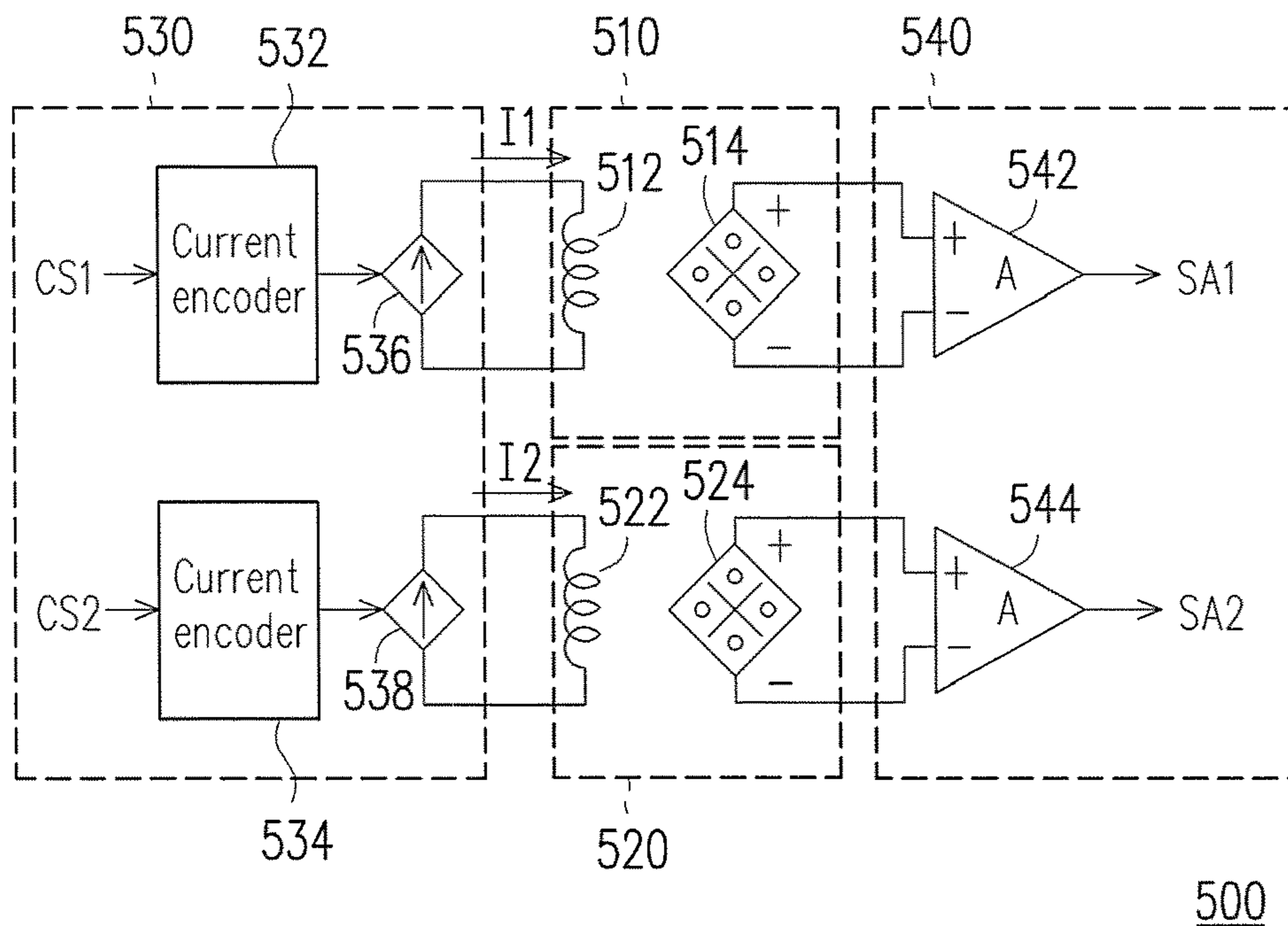


FIG. 5

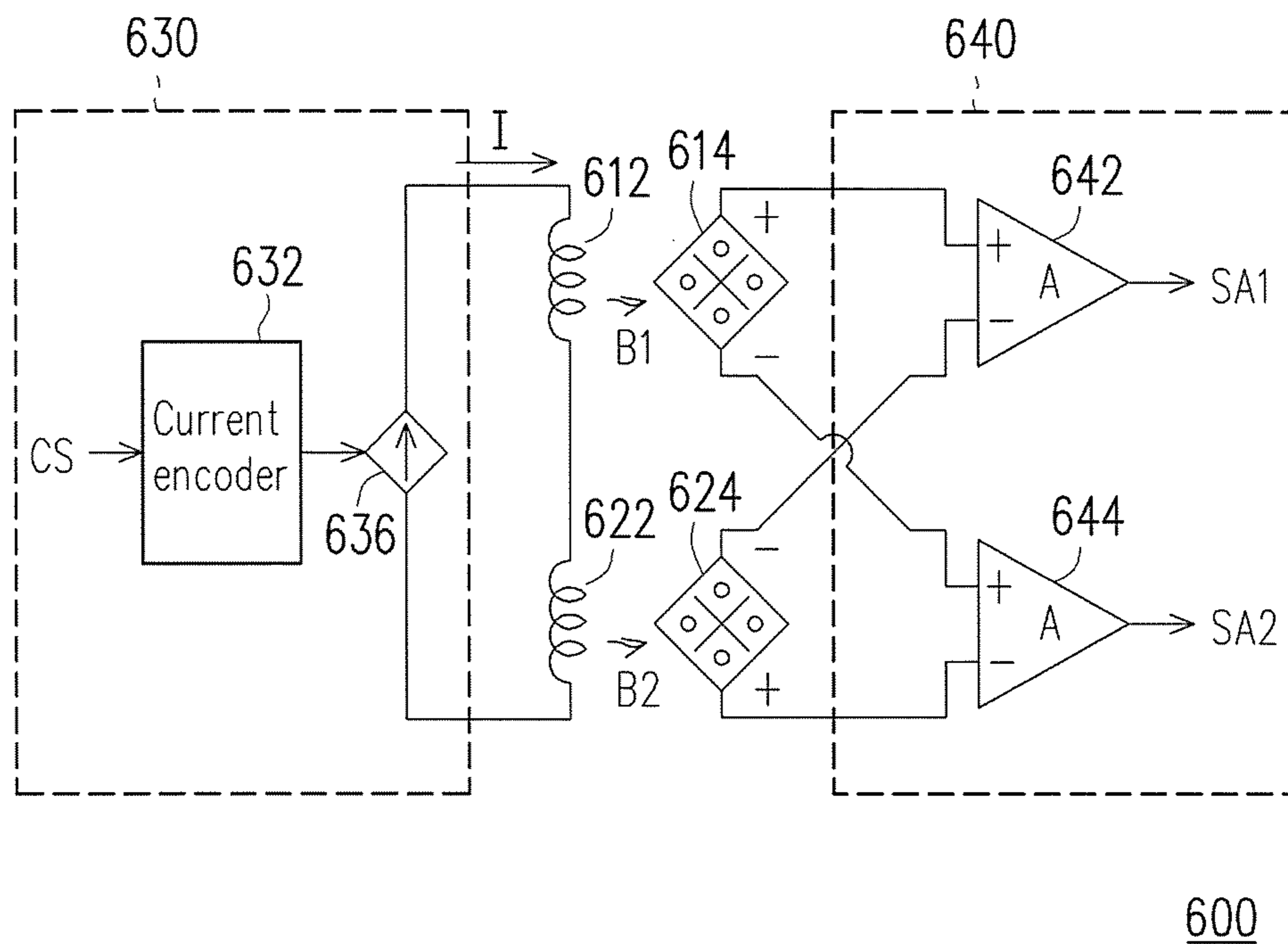


FIG. 6

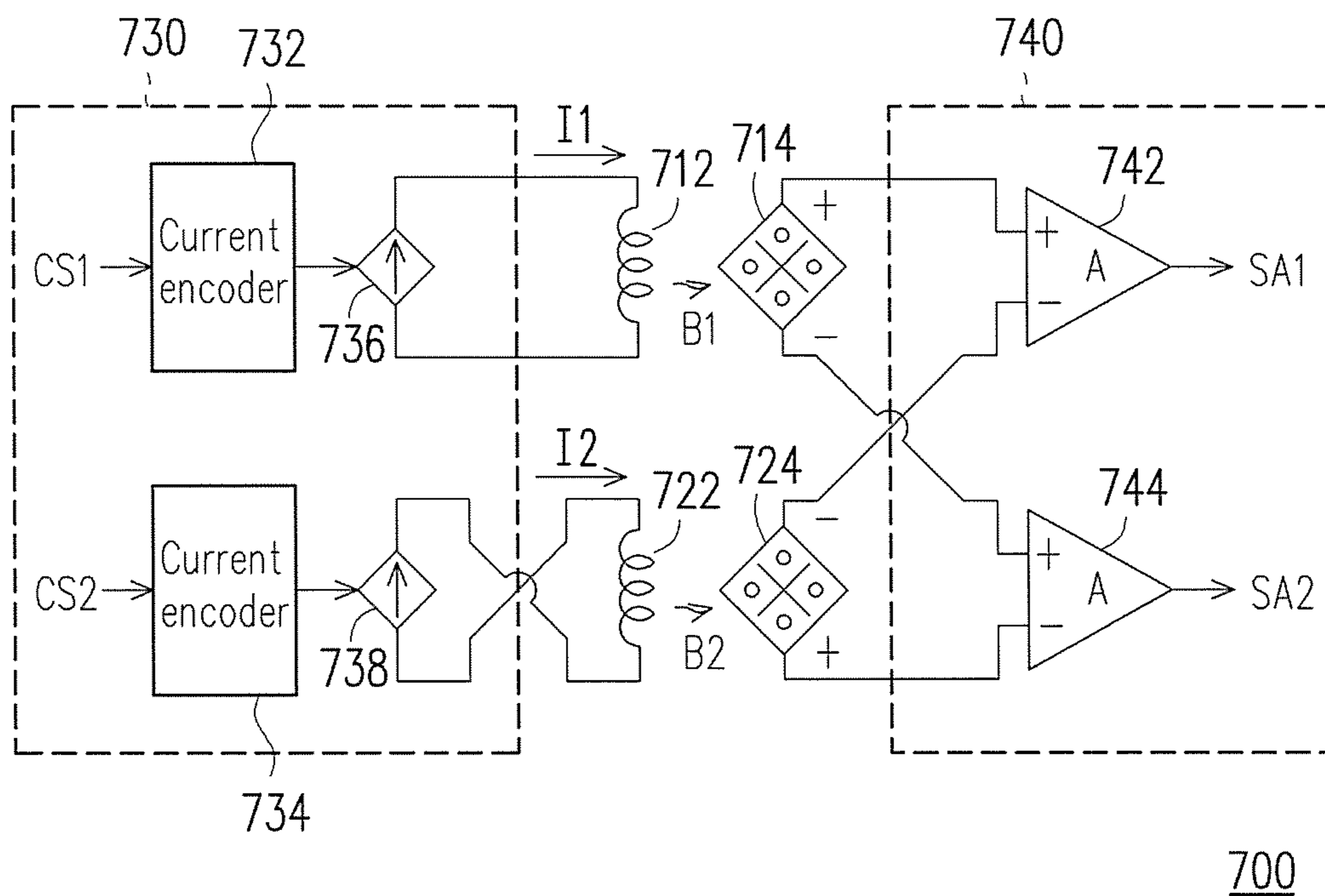


FIG. 7

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GALVANIC ISOLATOR CIRCUIT**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims the priority benefit of Taiwan application no. 105101495, filed on Jan. 19, 2016. The entirety of the above-mentioned patent application is hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part of this specification.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to a galvanic isolator circuit.

BACKGROUND

In the field of signal transmission, it is often required to transmit a signal or energy from a circuit of one voltage domain to a circuit of another voltage domain, or from one medium to another medium. Due to the difference in voltage domain or medium, the signal may interfere with or cause breakdown in the peripheral circuits by the parasitic path during the transmission and result in damage. Considering the reliability of the circuits, galvanic isolators, signal isolators, couplers, or isolation barriers are usually adopted for transmitting signals between the circuits of different voltage domains, to protect the circuits.

Galvanic isolators are applicable to many fields of power supply circuits, such as power supply systems (e.g., power supplies, motor control systems, server power supply systems, and home appliances), illumination control systems (e.g., LED controllers), industrial motor systems (e.g., robotic arms and car motors), and so on. The aforementioned power supply circuit systems usually generate signals or commands through a control circuit, to control the output stage circuit and transfer energy to the load.

Currently, galvanic isolators are usually implemented by using optical couplers, capacitors, or transformers. In the case of using an optical coupler as the galvanic isolator, the manufacturing process of LED is not compatible with the transistor manufacturing process (e.g., CMOS manufacturing process) and LED has issues such as light decay and heat loss. Therefore, LED cannot be integrated into the chip and additional packaging is required. Nevertheless, if a transformer or capacitor, which may be integrated into the chip, is used as the galvanic isolator, transmission of high frequency signals may be needed in order to achieve efficient transmission. As a result, the circuit equipped with such galvanic isolator will require additional modulation and demodulation functions for signal transmission. Thus, how to implement a galvanic isolator that may lower power consumption and reduce signal distortion remains an issue that needs to be addressed.

SUMMARY

The present disclosure is directed a galvanic isolator circuit which utilizes a coil and a magnetic field sensor for realizing functions for galvanic isolating by magnetic coupling.

A galvanic isolator circuit according to one embodiment of the disclosure includes a coil and a magnetic field sensor. The coil is coupled to a first circuit. The magnetic field sensor is coupled to a second circuit, and the magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the coil. The first circuit

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transfers a magnetic field signal to the magnetic field sensor via the coil. The magnetic field sensor transforms the magnetic field signal into an output signal and provides the output signal to the second circuit.

A galvanic isolator circuit according to one embodiment of the disclosure includes a first coil, a second coil, a first magnetic field sensor and a second magnetic field sensor. The first coil and the second coil are coupled to a transmitting-end circuit. The first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor are coupled to a first receiving-end circuit and a second receiving-end circuit respectively. The first magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the first coil, and the second magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the second coil. The transmitting-end circuit transfers a first magnetic field signal and a second magnetic field signal to the first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor respectively via the first coil and the second coil. The first magnetic field sensor transforms the first magnetic field signal into a first output signal and provides the first output signal to the first receiving-end circuit. The second magnetic field sensor transforms the second magnetic field signal into a second output signal and provides the second output signal to the second receiving-end circuit.

Based on the above, the galvanic isolator circuit in the embodiments of the disclosure utilizes the coil and the magnetic field sensor to implement the functions of the galvanic isolator by magnetic coupling. The galvanic isolator according to the embodiments of the disclosure may be combined with chip manufacturing processes, and the transmitted signal may be a high frequency signal or a low frequency signal and do not need to be modulated or demodulated. Accordingly, the galvanic isolator according to the embodiments of the disclosure is capable of lowering power consumption, reducing signal distortion and lowering manufacturing process costs and packaging costs. Furthermore, the galvanic isolator may be manufactured and integrated into the chip by the semiconductor manufacturing process. On the other hand, the galvanic isolation is capable of realizing functions for galvanic isolating by utilizing two coils and two magnetic field sensors to eliminate the common mode noise and amplify the differential mode signal, to resist the noise interference.

To make the above features and advantages of the present disclosure more comprehensible, several embodiments accompanied with figures are described in detail as follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the disclosure, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate embodiments of the disclosure and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure.

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating a circuit adopting a galvanic isolator according to the first embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram illustrating the circuit adopting the galvanic isolator according to the first embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. 3 is a detailed circuit diagram of the transmitting-end circuit and the receiving-end circuit in the circuit.

FIG. 4 is a tuning diagram of a control signal, an unencoded transmission current, an encoded transmission current and an output signal.

trolled current sources **736** and **738** are coupled to the first coil **712** and the second coil **722**, respectively. A winding direction of the first coil **712** is identical to a winding direction of the second coil **722** (e.g., both of which wound in clockwise direction or wound in counter clockwise direction). Specifically, a non-inverting transmitting node of the controlled current source **736** is connected to a first end of the first coil **712**, and an inverting transmitting node of the controlled current source **736** is connected to a second end of the first coil **712**. In contrast, a non-inverting transmitting node of the controlled current source **738** is connected to a second end of the second coil **722**, and an inverting transmitting node of the controlled current source **738** is connected to a first end of the second coil **722**. Accordingly, a first transmission current **I1** generated by the controlled current source **736** flows in from the first end of the first coil **712**, and a second transmission current **I2** generated by the controlled current source **738** flows in from the second end of the second coil **722**. Accordingly, the first coil **712** and the second coil **722** may generate magnetic field signals **B1** and **B2** having mutually inverse phases.

In summary, the galvanic isolator circuit in the embodiments of the disclosure utilizes the coil and the magnetic field sensor (e.g., the Hall sensor) to implement the functions of the galvanic isolator by magnetic coupling. The galvanic isolator in the embodiments of the disclosure may be combined with a chip manufacturing process, and the transmitted signal may be a high frequency signal or a low frequency signal and do not need to be modulated or demodulated. Accordingly, the galvanic isolator in the embodiments of the disclosure is capable of lowering power consumption, reducing signal distortion and lowering manufacturing process costs and packaging costs. Furthermore, the galvanic isolator may be manufactured and integrated into the chip by the semiconductor manufacturing process. On the other hand, the galvanic isolation is capable of realizing functions for galvanic isolating by utilizing two coils and two magnetic field sensors to eliminate the common mode noise and amplify the differential mode signal, to resist the noise interference.

Although the present disclosure has been described with reference to the above embodiments, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that modifications to the described embodiments may be made without departing from the spirit of the disclosure. Accordingly, the scope of the disclosure will be defined by the attached claims and not by the above detailed descriptions.

What is claimed is:

1. A galvanic isolator circuit, comprising:

a coil, coupled to a first circuit; and
a magnetic field sensor, coupled to a second circuit, and disposed corresponding to the coil,

wherein the first circuit transfers a magnetic field signal to the magnetic field sensor via the coil, and the magnetic field sensor transforms the magnetic field signal into an output signal and provides the output signal to the second circuit,

the first circuit comprises a control circuit, generating a control signal; and

a transmitting-end circuit, coupled to the coil, receiving the control signal, generating a transmission current according to the control signal, and providing the transmission current to the coil to have the coil generate the magnetic field signal,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit comprises a controlled current source; and a current encoder, controlling the controlled current source,

wherein the current encoder generates a pulse portion in the transmission current by the controlled current source according to a potential transition portion of the control signal.

2. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 1, wherein the second circuit comprises:

a receiving-end circuit, receiving the output signal; and an output stage circuit, coupled to the receiving-end circuit, and determining whether to provide energy to a load according to the output signal.

3. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 2, wherein the receiving-end circuit comprises:

an output amplifier, coupled to two ends of the magnetic field sensor, to amplify the output signal according to an output gain.

4. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 1, wherein the first circuit belongs to a first voltage domain, and the second circuit belongs to a second voltage domain different from the first voltage domain.

5. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 1, wherein the magnetic field sensor is a Hall sensor.

6. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 1, wherein the first circuit comprises:

a modulator, configured to modulate a control signal, wherein the first circuit transfers the magnetic field signal to the magnetic field sensor via the coil according to the modulated control signal,

wherein the second circuit comprises:

a demodulator, configured to demodulate the output signal generated by the magnetic field sensor.

7. A galvanic isolator circuit, comprising:

a first coil and a second coil, coupled to a transmitting-end circuit; and

a first magnetic field sensor and a second magnetic field sensor, coupled to a first receiving-end circuit and a second receiving-end circuit respectively,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the first coil, and the second magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the second coil,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit transfers a first magnetic field signal and a second magnetic field signal to the first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor respectively via the first coil and the second coil,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor transforms the first magnetic field signal into a first output signal and provides the first output signal to the first receiving-end circuit, and the second magnetic field sensor transforms the second magnetic field signal into a second output signal and provides the second output signal to the second receiving-end circuit,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit comprises a controlled current source having a first end coupled to a first end of the first coil, a second end of the first coil coupled to a first end of the second coil, and a second end of the controlled current source coupled to a second end of the second coil, wherein a winding direction of the first coil is different from a winding direction of the second coil,

wherein the controlled current source generates a transmission current which simultaneously flows through the first coil and the second coil,

the transmitting-end circuit further comprises a current encoder, controlling the controlled current source,

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wherein the current encoder generates a pulse portion in the transmission current by the controlled current source according to a potential transition portion of a control signal.

8. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 7, wherein the first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor is a Hall sensor.

9. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 7, wherein the first receiving-end circuit is a first output amplifier, and the second receiving-end circuit is a second output amplifier.

10. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 7, wherein the transmitting-end circuit comprises:

a first controlled current source, coupled to the first coil, and generating a first transmission current; and

a second controlled current source, coupled to the second coil, and generating a second transmission current,

wherein a winding direction of the first coil is identical to a winding direction of the second coil, wherein the first transmission current flows in from a first end of the first coil, and the second transmission current flows in from a second end of the second coil.

11. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 10, wherein the transmitting-end circuit further comprises:

a current encoder, controlling the controlled current source,

wherein the current encoder generates a pulse portion in the transmission current by the controlled current source according to a potential transition portion of a control signal.

12. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 10, wherein the first receiving-end circuit is a first output amplifier, and the second receiving-end circuit is a second output amplifier.

13. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 12, wherein the first output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor, and the second output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor.

14. The galvanic isolator circuit of claim 12, wherein the first output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor, and

the second output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor.

15. A galvanic isolator circuit, comprising:

a first coil and a second coil, coupled to a transmitting-end circuit; and

a first magnetic field sensor and a second magnetic field sensor, coupled to a first receiving-end circuit and a second receiving-end circuit respectively,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the first coil, and the second magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the second coil,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit transfers a first magnetic field signal and a second magnetic field signal to the first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor respectively via the first coil and the second coil,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor transforms the first magnetic field signal into a first output signal and

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provides the first output signal to the first receiving-end circuit, and the second magnetic field sensor transforms the second magnetic field signal into a second output signal and provides the second output signal to the second receiving-end circuit,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit comprises a controlled current source having a first end coupled to a first end of the first coil, a second end of the first coil coupled to a first end of the second coil, and a second end of the controlled current source coupled to a second end of the second coil, wherein a winding direction of the first coil is different from a winding direction of the second coil,

wherein the controlled current source generates a transmission current which simultaneously flows through the first coil and the second coil,

the transmitting-end circuit further comprises a current encoder, controlling the controlled current source,

wherein the current encoder generates a pulse portion in the transmission current by the controlled current source according to a potential transition portion of a control signal,

wherein the first receiving-end circuit is a first output amplifier, and the second receiving-end circuit is a second output amplifier,

wherein the first output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor, and the second output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor.

16. A galvanic isolator circuit, comprising:

a first coil and a second coil, coupled to a transmitting-end circuit; and

a first magnetic field sensor and a second magnetic field sensor, coupled to a first receiving-end circuit and a second receiving-end circuit respectively,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the first coil, and the second magnetic field sensor is disposed corresponding to the second coil,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit transfers a first magnetic field signal and a second magnetic field signal to the first magnetic field sensor and the second magnetic field sensor respectively via the first coil and the second coil,

wherein the first magnetic field sensor transforms the first magnetic field signal into a first output signal and provides the first output signal to the first receiving-end circuit, and the second magnetic field sensor transforms the second magnetic field signal into a second output signal and provides the second output signal to the second receiving-end circuit,

wherein the transmitting-end circuit comprises a controlled current source having a first end coupled to a first end of the first coil, a second end of the first coil coupled to a first end of the second coil, and a second end of the controlled current source coupled to a second end of the second coil, wherein a winding direction of the first coil is different from a winding direction of the second coil,

wherein the controlled current source generates a transmission current which simultaneously flows through the first coil and the second coil,

the transmitting-end circuit further comprises a current encoder, controlling the controlled current source, wherein the current encoder generates a pulse portion in the transmission current by the controlled current source according to a potential transition portion of a control signal, wherein the first receiving-end circuit is a first output amplifier, and the second receiving-end circuit is a second output amplifier, wherein the first output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the first magnetic field sensor, and the second output amplifier has a non-inverting receiving node coupled to a non-inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor and an inverting receiving node coupled to an inverting output of the second magnetic field sensor.

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